

ReBuilt Homes
16 Cornerstone Court Plantsville, CT 06479

May 10, 2022

Re:
Senate Bill 292

Two Whom It May Concern:

Speaking to the home renovation and remodeling section of this bill, As construction professionals we often find homes in need of basic repairs to make the structures safe, and livable. More often, than not, the one piece of the home that is in good condition is the heating system, as heat is a basic need of survival. Therefore, when home owners place their money into their home, the first place it goes is to the furnace.

If this bill passes, it is my belief, that many homes will go un-renovated, meaning less safe homes and homeowners living in “un-liveable” conditions, because the added cost of replacing an already working heating system will be unbearable in most instances when coupled with other renovation costs. Where do we draw the line, and who will be determining what is a major or what is a minor renovation? It becomes very subjective and will differ from one (community) building official to another in each town.

We often see, in this country, reactive governing. I believe this bill is reacting to the “catch word of the day” - going green. Be it here in CT or on the National level, which is now in our face on a daily basis, this reactionary form of leadership isn't working. Before we shut off the pipelines, gas pumps and gas lines, wouldn't it be more productive to first, establish a system of green power that works, first, and then implement green initiatives that can actually feed off of the new system. We seem to have it backwards, which is why we see what is going on in the world over the last couple of days.

I think most people forget where electricity comes from - it doesn't come from the switch on the wall, it comes from a power generating facility which is typically fueled by gas turbines, coal, oil or Nuclear power - none of which are green. So, if we go green, before we actually can generate green power, what are we doing, as leaders, other than making ourselves feel good.

We see what happens in California, when the strain on the power grid happens because of their green laws - it collapses.

I am a huge fan of green energy, when it is done correctly. This approach is backwards and not good for CT, let alone anywhere in the country. We need to be leaders, not followers, let's be leaders on this topic. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Riccio